



**United Nations
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**MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM H.E. MR. LI PENG, PREMIER OF THE
STATE COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

On the occasion of the convocation of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Midrand, South Africa, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, our warm congratulations to the Conference.

The world economy at present is developing along the direction of globalization and liberalization, with growing interdependence between nations. However, the inequitable international economic order continues to seriously constrain the economic development of developing countries, leading to a widening gap between the North and the South. Being held against this backdrop, UNCTAD IX is an important Conference in the field of the international economy towards the end of this century. It is my hope that the Conference will, through this session, make new contributions to fostering the expansion of world trade, particularly the trade and development of developing countries, promoting the South-South dialogue and North-South cooperation, and setting up a new international economic order.

As the only intergovernmental body within the United Nations system for comprehensive review of trade, development and other related issues, UNCTAD shoulders a heavy responsibility in the period ahead. As always China will attach importance to, and support, the work of UNCTAD. We are willing to join in the common efforts with the rest of the world to bring about a stable and prosperous world economy in the next century.

I wish the Conference a complete success.
